

LIBRARY



NORTHALLERTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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and Surveyor: E.O. Hillyard, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health: Hugh G. Hanan, M.B.Ch.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT 1939

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

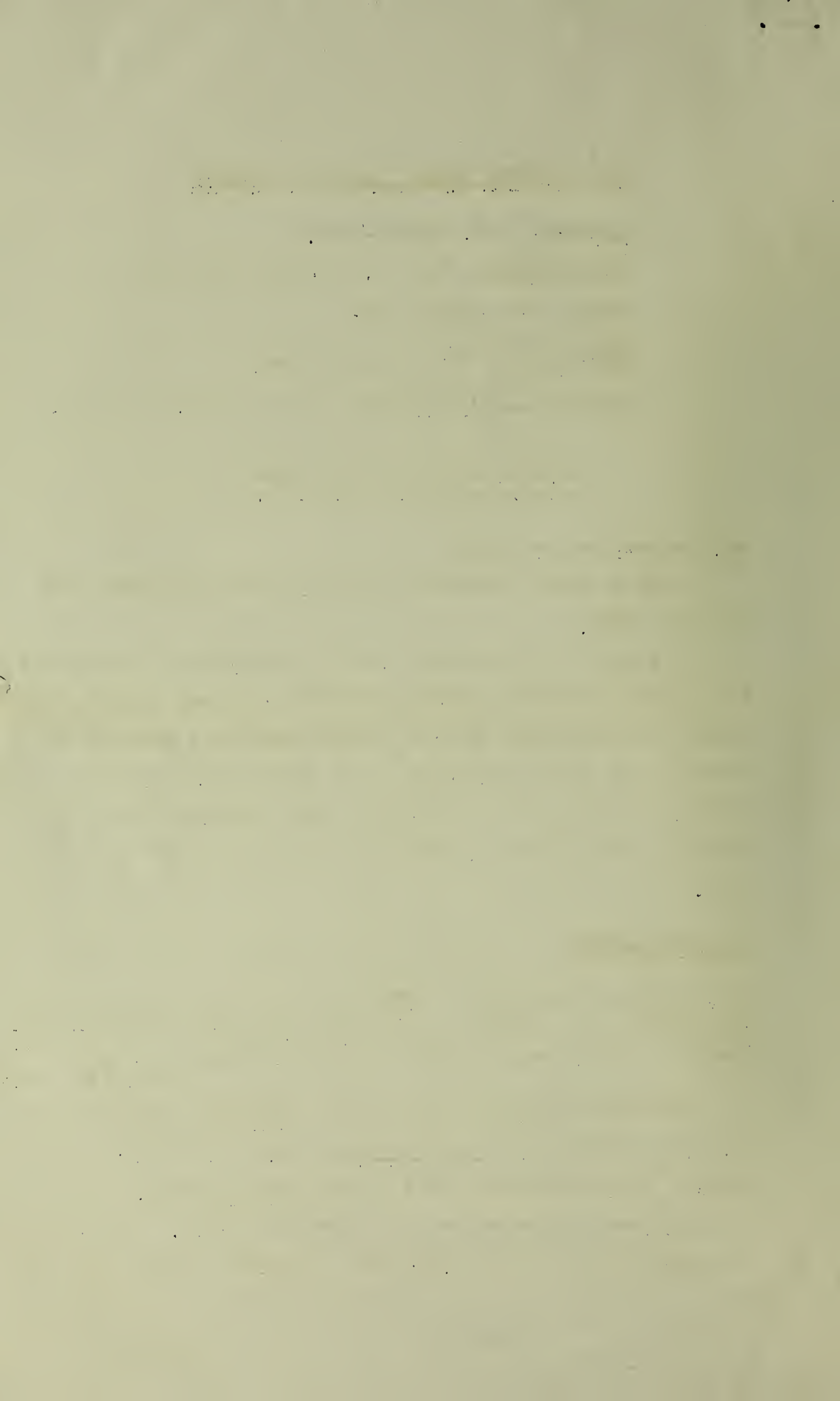
In view of War Conditions the Minister of Health recommended in Circular 2067 that the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1939 should be of an interim nature and confined to essential and urgent matters or those arising out of the War. I have, therefore, reported briefly on the important features only but have included the usual statistics in an abbreviated form.

VITAL STATISTICS

Mean Estimated Population	4,979				
LIVE BIRTHS	<u>Total</u>	79	Rate per 1,000 of Population	16.1	
DEATHS		61	" " " "	12.0	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	8		Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	94.1	

There were no deaths arising out of Pregnancy or Childbirth. One death occurred from Whooping Cough, and one death in a child under 2 years of age was caused by Infantile Diarrhoea.

The Infant Mortality rate is higher than usual. There is no one special cause for this increase. It must be remembered that



in dealing with small numbers a very slight increase in the number of deaths shows most markedly in the rate per 1,000 live births.

INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

<u>Diphtheria</u>	1		
<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	9		
<u>Pneumonia</u>	6	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	New Cases 3
<u>Puerperal</u>			Deaths 1
<u>Pyrexia</u>	1		

The above statistics are very satisfactory the number of cases of Notifiable disease being less than average notwithstanding the large influx of children evacuated from other areas into the town.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

Northallerton was scheduled as a Reception Area under the Evacuation Scheme and within a week of the outbreak of war had received a total 1019 persons, comprising:

- (1) Unaccompanied school children.
- (2) Mothers and children under 5 years of age.
- (3) Expectant mothers.

The condition of many of these cases was far from satisfactory and the difficulties of dealing with these and finding suitable billets put a great strain on the Council's Officials and voluntary helpers.

The numbers rapidly diminished and within a few weeks very few mothers accompanied by children under 5, or expectant mothers, remained, arrangements had however been made to assist these cases.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

It was decided that Northallerton should be the centre for and Emergency Maternity Home for Evacuated Expectant Mothers and a house, known as Mount Pleasant, was quickly adapted and staffed at the outbreak of war and was able to deal with all the cases in the town and from the surrounding districts.

The Home is run under the direction of the County Council which is the supervising authority for this area.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Ante-Natal Clinics were held in conjunction with this scheme.

During the weeks when the numbers of Evacuated children made it advisable a Special Child Welfare Clinic was arranged. The majority of the children very soon returned home and the clinics discontinued after a few sessions.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

At a special meeting of Representatives of the Northallerton Urban and Rural Councils concerned with Air Raid Precautions it was agreed that in the event of a state of Emergency the Casualty Services of the two districts should be pooled and the disposition of the units should be left to the discretion of the officer on duty at the Report Centre. During the critical period immediately previous to the outbreak of war, the Local Casualty Services came into operation as set out in the Home Office Programme. The Equipment of the Mobile First Aid Party and First Aid Party was furnished in good time by the County Authority. We had a full complement (including reserves) trained and ready for duty. Our Temporary Ambulances too were fitted with stretcher carrying apparatus and supplied with stretchers and blankets.

A rota of duty and relief was drawn up and intensive training continued.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

As a result of a meeting between Local Authorities and the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health at the County Hall in September, 1939, plans were submitted for additional Isolation Hospital accommodation. At the close of the year no further arrangements had been made.

BASE HOSPITAL

Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Health commenced the erection of an Emergency Base Hospital for military and

civilian casualties. In the first place it is designed for approximately 400 beds and is situated adjacent to the Public Assistance Institution.

HOUSE SCAVENGING

The six dry ashpits that were remaining have now been eliminated under the power of Section 72 P.H.A. 1936 and dry ash bins substituted.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A record map of all existing sewers in the district was prepared during the year and has been duly authenticated by the Council with a view to the altered provisions of recent legislation.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The provision of the Food and Drugs Act of 1938 make important alterations in the procedure for licensing Slaughter Houses; at the close of the year a careful survey of the conditions of all Slaughter Houses had been made and the joint recommendations of the Sanitary Inspector and myself were then receiving the consideration of the Council.

WATER SUPPLY

The construction of a new service reservoir and duplication of a main between this reservoir and the town reached completion in November and it is now possible to maintain adequate pressure in the town's mains throughout the district.

At the close of the year the Council promoted a Bill in Parliament seeking additional powers to take water and to carry out certain work to increase the supply to the district.

The quality of the supply has been maintained and the monthly examination of samples shows this to be very satisfactory.

HOUSING

During the early part of the year the eight houses built by the Council to house dispossessed tenants from the South End

Terrace Clearance Area and another house condemned as unfit for habitation, were completed and occupied.

No further building schemes have been entered upon but six houses which were the subject of undertakings have been repaired by the owners and re-occupied during the year.

NEW HOUSES

Prior to the outbreak of war in September a considerable number of new houses had been completed by private enterprise and some were completed and occupied after that date making the total for the year 26.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH G. HANAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

